

NEWS RELEASE

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a division of the
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Jefferson City, Missouri

Grand Glaize “No Wake” Area Will Be In Effect Beginning Memorial Weekend.

Buoys and signage for the “No Wake” area have been positioned in accordance with the approved permit. Boat operators are required to reduce their boat speed to “Idle Speed” within the controlled area. This area extends approximately one mile from the Grand Glaize Bridge south to the Moorings. **This controlled area is in effect starting this Memorial Weekend through the last day of the Labor Day Weekend. The following time specifications apply:**

***The restrictions apply on all Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.**

***The restrictions apply from 10 AM until the official sunset time throughout the summer.**

Water Patrol Officers will be patrolling the area. Our approach to enforcement will be “educational” in nature. Our intent is to provide a safe boating environment through education and sound enforcement policies.

PRINTABLE MAP OF GRAND GLAIZE BUOY AREA IS POSTED ON MSWP WEBSITE:

www.mswp.state.mo.us

Memorial Day Holiday Weekend—May 24 thru 27, 2002. Realizing that recreational boating can result in tragedy is one of the first steps to ensuring a safe day on the water. Boaters who are not prepared often pay the price in fines, injury or death. The fast paced activities that surround most of Missouri’s water recreation areas require boaters to not only use knowledge of the rules and regulations, but to rely heavily on common sense and good judgment. Taking into account that the majority of boating accidents are the result of operator-controlled factors, the responsibility lies with the operators to ensure a safe day on the water. During this holiday weekend, boaters should assure that all safety equipment is functional and accessible. The most important life saving item in your boat is the personal flotation devices (PFD) or lifejackets. They are required to be worn by all children under 7 years old, but all boat occupants are encouraged to wear their PFD. The average water temperature in most regions of the state is well below normal for this time of year. In central Missouri, the water temperature is averaging 67 degrees. Boaters and swimmers alike should be aware of the potential hazards associated with exposure to cold water and hypothermia. Additionally, in many regions of the state, there are high water conditions caused by recent heavy rains. Caution must be

used when considering the possibility of fast currents and floating debris that exist during high water conditions. Be aware of local water conditions and keep an eye on the weather.

Recreational boating is one of the fastest growing pastimes in the nation. There are over 336,000 registered boats in Missouri. Our state is also a very popular vacation spot for visiting water sport enthusiasts. The increase of boating traffic on Missouri waters makes it more likely for boaters to be involved in a boating accident. Boat collisions are the leading accident classification in Missouri and throughout the nation. Keep a close “lookout” for other boaters and be particularly cautious if boating at night.

Another significant factor in the cause of serious boating accidents is the misuse of alcoholic beverages. Boaters are encouraged to designate a “sober operator”. This practice will save lives. Boat operators should also be mindful that it is illegal to operate any vessel or watercraft while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Missouri Water Patrol Officers made 562 Boating While Intoxicated arrests in 2001.

Watch the Missouri State Water Patrol homepage at www.mswp.state.mo.us for updates on Boating Safety Courses in your area.

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